

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: November 2, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on October 26, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Anthrax Response (Two Federal Buildings), Cleveland, Ohio

On October 22, 2001, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requested the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA's) assistance in responding to an anthrax threat to two Federal buildings in Cleveland, Ohio. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jim Augustyn, U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Mike Martin, and the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) mobilized to the potential anthrax threat. A suspicious white powder was discovered in several envelopes received at the Federal Building and the U.S. Attorney's Building. Two of the letters were discovered in the mail room in the office's of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in the Federal Building. Another letter was opened in an office of the U.S. Attorney's Building. The FBI arrived on the scene and requested the assistance of the Cleveland Fire Department (CFD), who triple-bagged the letters and put them in a storage closet. The letter received by the U.S. Attorney contained a written bio-terrorism threat. The FBI requested the assistance of the U.S. EPA to provide field screening of the white powder. Approximately half a teaspoon of fine white powder was visible in each of the bags that contained the letters. START placed a small amount of powder from each of the bags into a sample jar and conducted

field screening using a commercially available test strip. The sample result, and that of two other field tests, were negative indicating that the powder was not likely to be anthrax. The FBI transported the letters to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory (ODH), who on October 23, 2001, determined that the powder was not a bacteria and was not anthrax.

Contact: Jim Augustyn (440-250-1742)
Mike Martin (440-250-1770)

Removal Completion, Polk Street Drum Site, Chicago, Illinois

On October 24, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Benning completed the removal at the Polk Street Drum site located in Chicago, Illinois. The site was discovered during the cleanup of a vacant lot, which had previously been operated as a car scrap yard. Upon removal of the junk cars by the City, approximately 100-150 drums were discovered on the site. The drums appeared to be very old and at one time had been involved in a fire. Visual inspection and hazard characterization of the drums indicated the majority of the materials were old paint, solvents, and oils. Removal actions included the over packing of all containers that still had material, the crushing of empty containers, and the removal of contaminated soil/debris due to past releases. Removal actions occurred during August 6-10, 2001, and disposal operations were completed October 23-24, 2001. The City of Chicago will complete the site cleanup and has constructed a fence around the site.

Contact: Brad Benning (312-353-7613)

Removal Completion, Canton Industrial Corporation Site, Canton, Illinois

On October 15, 2001, removal actions were initiated for the underground storage tanks (USTs) and above ground storage tanks (ASTs) at the Canton Industrial Corporation site in Canton, Illinois. The potentially responsible parties (PRPs) under the oversight of the U.S. EPA, State of Illinois Fire Marshall, and State of Illinois Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) program, removed eight USTs and nine ASTs. Contaminated soils and liquids, and contents in the tanks were removed and will be disposed of at a later date. Clean excavated areas were backfilled with sand and gravel. The PRP contractor cut up all of the empty tanks and transported them off-site for disposal. An extent of contamination study will be conducted by the PRPs in the future for the three areas where the USTs had leaked.

Contact: Stavros Emmanouil (312-886-1768)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Field Services Section Borehole Geophysical Logging Equipment Upgraded and Presentation to NEIC Investigators, Golden and Denver, Colorado

Recent technological advances in the environmental borehole geophysical field prompted an equipment upgrade to existing equipment within the Superfund Field Services Section. This upgrade will allow a wider range of borehole instruments to be used for environmental surveys in wells. The upgrade required our logging vehicle to be driven to Golden, Colorado, for modification. While the vehicle was being serviced, a presentation was made on October 17, 2001, at the Agency's National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) in Denver, Colorado, to inform investigators of the benefits of borehole geophysics and capabilities of Region 5 staff.

The upgrade will allow information to be gathered for parameters, such as ground water resistivity/total dissolved solids, porosity, permeability, hydraulic conductivity, Redox, salinity, sulphides, nitrates, chlorides, and ammonia. The typical tools used for lithologic identification, hole deviation, fluid sampling, and electric conductivity are also still available. In addition, high definition tools, such as optical and acoustic televiewer instruments can also be applied. The logging unit is capable of logging wells to a depth of 2000 feet.

Contact: Jim Ursic (312-353-1526)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Superfund Redevelopment Workshop, Chicago, Illinois

On October 17 and 18, 2001, U.S. EPA hosted a Redevelopment Development Workshop for seven Municipalities that received the second round of \$100,000 Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) Grants. The Old Midland Hotel has been remodeled with a modern "new wave" motif that inspired SRI Grant recipients to think innovatively and creatively and employ out-of-the-box methods to design action plans for redevelopment of their perspective National Priorities List (NPL) site.

Three modules were presented by U.S. EPA Headquarters, the Region 5 Redevelopment Coordinator, and Vita Nuova, which provided valuable information and interactive site-specific discussions relating to redevelopment. The Stakeholder Involvement Process, Integrating Cleanup and Redevelopment, and Risk Management for Redeveloping Contaminated Properties were the main topics of discussion. Presentations about the SRI Grant Program in Region 5 by Jim Mayka, the Superfund Pipeline by Thomas Bloom, Quarterly Reporting Requirements by Suzanne Coll, and Legal Tools to Support the Redevelopment Process by Peter Fellitti, were followed up with breakout sessions to directly apply information presented to specific concerns and issues regarding redevelopment of the NPL sites.

Information and advice from experienced members at the Redevelopment Workshop was absorbed by representatives of the Municipalities and a result of the two-day Workshop was a schedule which identifies and integrates the site-specific cleanup milestones with redevelopment milestones.

Contact: Thomas Bloom (312-886-1967)

Response Plan Seminar, Middleburg Heights, Ohio

On October 18, 2001, the first Facility Response Plan (FRP) Seminar of this fiscal year was held in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. The following topics were discussed: Alex Tzallas discussed FRP Preparation, FRP Review Process, FRP 5 Year Review Process, Integrated Contingency Plans vs. Facility Response Plans, Plan Deficiencies, Inspections, Agency Expectations, the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. EPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the New Vegetable Oil and Animal Fat Regulations, and Legal and Enforcement Issues. Sheila Calovich discussed Unannounced Drills.

Eighteen people attended that were mostly industry individuals, including terminal owners/operators, consultants, and agency personnel. Attendees' response was extremely positive, and they found the seminar and the informational packets informative and helpful for improving their oil programs. In addition, numerous attendees stated that they had traveled from other Regional jurisdictions because no such outreach existed in their Region.

Contact: Alexander Tzallas (312-886-0622)

Upper Mississippi River Basin Association' Hazardous Spills Group Meeting, Davenport, Iowa

On October 24-25, 2001, Ann Whelan and Barbi Lee attended the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association's Hazardous Spills Group meeting in Davenport, Iowa. Representatives from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Coast Guard, U.S. EPA Region 7, and the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa were also present. The first half of the meeting was held in conjunction with members of a new Water Users Consortium formed by the drinking water utilities and regulators along the Mississippi River. The group is working on a joint interest in an early detection system for contaminants. In the latter part of the meeting, there was discussion of the expansion of an agreement developed by Steve Faryan and the Rock Island District of USACE; and, presentations by Ann Whelan of analysis conducted on the data gathered for the Inland Sensitivity Atlases, and on a project created by Ginger Lukowski of Fully Integrated Environmental Location Decision Support (FIELDS) that identified from the Endangered Species Recovery Plans where endangered species are regionally and where they need to be recolonized.

Contact: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)

Quad Cities Sub-Area Committee Meeting, Davenport, Iowa

On October 25, 2001, Barbi Lee and Ann Whelan attended the Quad Cities Sub-Area Committee. Also in attendance were U.S. EPA Region 7, representatives from the United States Coast Guard detachment in Rock Island, the United States Corps of Engineers, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Iowa and local governments from both sides of the Mississippi River. Discussion focused on notification protocols for cross river notification using some incidents from this Summer as examples. There was also discussion of the development of specific response strategies for the Quad Cities section of the river and plans were made to conduct a detailed survey of the River section to determine what can be protected, and to identify access points and anchoring location for booming. Barbi Lee also offered the group the Oil Spill Exercise Generator and discussed new policies on response during natural disasters.

Contact: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Superfund Health and Safety Awards, U.S. EPA Region 5, Chicago, Illinois

On October 24, 2001, the following individuals have been selected by the Superfund Health and Safety (H&S) Committee to receive a Health and Safety award for their part in effectively enhancing the Superfund H&S Program by putting proper practices in place for the Superfund H&S program:

Bill Munro, Jane Neumann and Vivian Aviles were recognized for providing suggestions that resulted in improved Health & Safety practices.

Darryl Owens, Mike Rafati, Ron Murawski, Kaushalya Khanna, Josie Dowdy and Sheila Sullivan were recognized for reporting unsafe conditions.

Nominations for H&S Awards may be suggested by any employee, including self-nominations. All nominations should be submitted via email to Afif Marouf, our H&S Representative. The package must include a clear explanation of the H&S accomplishments supporting the award nomination. The H&S Committee members are the designated panel that select the candidate for the H&S Awards.

Contact: Afif Marouf (312-353-5550)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers